[7th December 1954

Supervision of the work of panchayat boards by Panchayat Officers.

* 118 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Panchayat Officers supervise the work carried out by the panchayat boards in each village and submit their reports to the higher authorities for further improvements in the villages?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will take five more minutes and finish the rest of the questions."

Rate of surcharge on electricity levied on consumers.

* 119 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the
12 noon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government are collecting an additional tax of 20 per cent of war time surcharge from the consumers of electricity in the State?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The rate of surcharge on electricity levied on all consumers served by the Electricity Department direct (other than distributing licensees receiving bulk supply from this Department) is 20 per cent. The surcharge is to meet the increased cost of production of electricity and is not a 'tax'."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" யுத்தம் முடிந்து 8 வருஷமாகியும்கூட அதிகப்படியாக விதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற சர் சார்ஜை இந்த சர்க்கார் இன்னும் என் குறைக்கவில்லை ? அப்படி எப்போது குறைப்பார்கள் ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" No, Sir. There is no prospect of reducing the surcharge, because the conditions which prompted the levy of this surcharge during war time continue to exist now, although the war has ended."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is the levy of this surcharge going to be a permanent feature or only a temporary measure and if it is going to be a permanent measure, is it the policy of the Government to have this 20 per cent surcharge permanently? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" No, Sir. This is levied only to meet the extra cost of production and other things. This will have to continue for some years, but it is not the intention of the Government to continue it beyond the necessary period."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" If this levy of 20 per cent surcharge is to meet the extra expenditure incurred by Government in giving installation, will the Government consider the desirability

7th December 1954]

of amalgamating it with unit charges and then raise the price per unit instead of deceiving the illiterate people simply with believing in what they say?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"There is no deceipt in this, Sir. The surcharge is levied for a certain purpose. If it is amalgamated with the unit charge, it will continue to stay for more time than is necessary. The war time conditions are there and increased dearness allowance, etc. are still being paid to workers. It is only the Opposition members who are clamouring for higher payment to the workers."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that this surcharge on private consumers of electricity has been necessitated by the increased cost of production of electricity. The bulk consumers, the distributors, are not charged this surcharge. May I know whether the electricity that is supplied to bulk distributors is produced at a lower cost or at the same cost as before?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"I said this 20 per cent surcharge was for consumers other than distributing licensees receiving bulk supplies. In their case, the surcharge is 10 per cent."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"Well, the 20 per cent surcharge is charged on private consumers and it is not charged on bulk suppliers. If the bulk suppliers are charged only 10 per cent how is it that these bulk suppliers are charging the 20 per cent on the private consumers?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"They have to meet the extra cost of their staff and other conditions, such as dearness allowance, etc., which they are also paying."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—"அரசாங்கம் தற்பொழுது தனிப்பட்ட மின்சார விநியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு குறைந்த விலைக்கு விநியோகம் செய்கிறது. அவர்கள் முதலீட்டிற்கு தகுந்தவாறு லாபம் வைத்துத்தான் உபயோகிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் மேலும் அரசாங்கம் விநியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு 10 சதம் அதிகமாகவும் விலையேற்றத்தின் காரணமாக உபயோகிப்பவர்களுக்கு 20 சதம் அதிகமாகவும் வைத்து விற்கிறார்கள். இது மேலும் அதிக லாபம் சம்பாதிக்கவும், உபயோகிப்பவர்களுக்கு அதிக சார்ஜும் ஆகிறது பற்றி அரசாங்கத்திற்கு தெரியுமா ?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"They have got to charge their power under the Act."

National Extension Service in South Arcot.

* 120 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the blocks and the specific areas proposed to be taken for starting the National Extension Scheme Block under the Five-Year Plan in South Arcot district in the year 1954–55; and

(*b*) the amount proposed to be spent during the year?